



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Sonora, CA 95370

May 29, 2015

STAFF REPORT: Law Enforcement/Public Safety

STAFF: Mark Hada, Visitor Services Manager

SUBJECT: Grant Site Visits by Law Enforcement Staff
California and Arizona ROVs with Street Legal License Plates

Summary

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division's Law Enforcement (LE) site visit team made 11 site visits to law enforcement organizations since January 2015.

The OHMVR Division has received more and more inquiries from various Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Areas about Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs) licensed for public street use by both the States of Arizona and California.

Discussion

Grant Site Visits

The team visited the following sites to review the LE grants awarded to these agencies:

1. Modoc County Sheriff's Office
2. Modoc National Forest
3. Klamath National Forest
4. Ventura County Sheriff's Office
5. El Dorado National Forest
6. Los Angeles Police Department (Traffic Division)
7. Plumas County Sheriff's Office
8. Plumas National Forest
9. Mono County Sheriff's Office
10. Aracata Bureau of Land Management
11. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

LE staff reviewed jurisdiction and areas of patrol, facilities and equipment, as well as inspected various site locations.

LE staff provided the Agencies with opportunities to address concerns and issues in their respective jurisdictions.

California and Arizona ROVs with Street License Plates

California has been seeing more ROVs that have valid California license plates on them that appear to have been issued in error. The error may have been from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or possibly from personnel who inspect non-standard vehicles to determine if they are eligible for use on public streets. There have been two street licensed ROVs reported in and around the SVRAs, and DMV has reported to us that they have been notified by other agencies of several more.

People obtaining such plates should be contacted and told that his or her plate was issued in error and they should not drive the vehicle on the public streets (unless it is one of the specially legislated areas where that activity has been legalized by local governments). Photos and driver information can be sent directly to the DMV or to the OHMVR Division Visitor Services section in order to generate the letter that tells the registered owner to surrender the plates that were issued in error. Should the driver/owner not wish to comply and he/she continues to operate the ROV on public streets, the LE officer may seize the plates and issue a citation.

Arizona has a program that allows the citizens of that state to register his/her ROV as street legal, leaving them with the impression that this registration will be recognized by other states. While the State of California will recognize the street plate as a de facto green sticker, it will not permit the Arizona-plated ROVs to travel on public streets. Andrew Conway, Chief of the Registration Operations Division of DMV, stated "California peace officers may cite the Arizona vehicles for violation of California Vehicle Code section 4000 (a) because California has no street legal vehicles of that type. Reciprocity is not an issue. Having said that, you may use 4000 (a) for citations." He also pointed out that a likely beneficial first step is educating the Arizona OHV users that his or her ROV's street legality will not be honored on California public highways. The Arizona licensed ROV can operate legally in California OHV recreation areas, but will be treated as any other green sticker vehicle on public streets.

Discussions have begun with the Arizona State Parks OHV staff about posting the California position for these ROVs on the Arizona website.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

None